

Health Care Science & Services Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



14,555 Employers



331,476 Workers



\$69,869 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Health Care?

Health Care Science & Services is the largest employing industry in Missouri, making up 13.4 percent of total private sector employment. The Health Care Science & Services industry has over 14,500 employers that provide jobs to over 331,400 workers across the state.

Missouri's Health Care industry has particularly high employment concentrations in *General Medical and Surgical Hospitals*, as well as *Nursing and Residential Care Facilities*. Wages in this industry averaged \$69,869 in 2023, higher than the state average of \$62,563 for private industries. An aging patient population and retiring health care workers contribute to the growing and projected need.

The Health Care industry provides various work opportunities for every interest. From jobs that directly care for patients to careers that keep the whole system going, important jobs are waiting to be filled in Patient Care, Diagnostic/Therapeutic, and Business Operations.

Know the Basics

Health Care careers often involve interactions with patients and other team members, so active listening and communication skills are important. Health Care includes many essential occupations that need to be staffed around the clock, so dependability and reliability are a must. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations.

Skills needed for Success:

The Health Care Science & Services industry has industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. With the need for privacy and confidentiality in these industries, workers need to have knowledge of health industry ethics, laws and regulations, in addition to being able to keep accurate and confidential documentation. Patient interaction, infection control, understanding of drugs and medications, as well as the knowledge of diagnostic procedures, scientific methods, and technology are some of the skills needed for success in this industry.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Mercy Health
SSM Health
BJC HealthCare
HCA Healthcare
CoxHealth



Patient Care

Diagnostic/ Therapeutic

Business Operations

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Home Health & Personal Care Aides

Entry: \$24,960 Average: \$30,270

Certificates: Home Health Aide, Certified Caregiver, First Aid CPR AED, Nursing Assistant

Psychiatric Aides

Entry: \$37,030 Average: \$40,410

Certificates: First Aid CPR AED

Receptionists & Information Clerks

Entry: \$28,830 Average: \$34,060

Customer Service Representatives

Entry: \$34,540 Average: \$43,280

Certificates: Certified Healthcare Access Associate (CHAA), First Aid CPR AED

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Nursing Assistants

Entry: \$32,190 Average: \$36,350

Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses

Entry: \$49,290 Average: \$55,220

Emergency Medical Technicians

Entry: \$30,190 Average: \$37,450

Certificates: Nursing Assistant, Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Dental Assistants

Entry: \$36,660 Average: \$44,450

Dental Hygienists

Entry: \$76,970 Average: \$79,740

Pharmacy Technicians

Entry: \$35,410 Average: \$39,960

Certificates: Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant American, First Aid CPR AED

Medical Records Specialists

Entry: \$40,750 Average: \$52,310

Computer User Support Specialists

Entry: \$41,600 Average: \$57,600

Medical Secretaries

Entry: \$34,830 Average: \$47,330

Certificates: Registered Health Information Technician, Certified Professional Coder, Certified A+ Technician, Network +, Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP)

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Registered Nurses

Entry: \$64,090 Average: \$77,590

Physical Therapists

Entry: \$76,180 Average: \$91,030

Family Medicine Physicians

Entry: \$148,050 Average: \$223,180

Degrees: Nursing Science, Physical Therapy, Medicine

Dentists

Entry: N/A Average: N/A

Pharmacists

Entry: \$125,520 Average: \$132,570

Healthcare Social Workers

Entry: \$40,410 Average: \$53,060

Degrees: Social Work, Pharmacy, Mental Health, Dental Medicine

Software Developers

Entry: \$77,560 Average: \$107,980

Medical & Health Services Managers

Entry: \$82,060 Average: \$116,370

Accountants & Auditors

Entry: \$52,830 Average: \$84,540

Degrees: Computer Science, Information Technology, Accounting, Business Administration & Management

Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse

2023 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Top employers data is based on 2024 online job ads



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